



## NORTH OAKLAND COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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To Whom It May Concern:

We strongly recommend the musical instrument-building program of the organization Music for People and Thingamajigs. Edward Schocker and Stewart Portman, with support from Tako Oda, came to our school to work with our second and third graders on our Physics of Sound unit, which is a 3rd grade California science standard. They worked in concert with the district's FOSS Science Kit, complementing the science with hands-on instrument building that perfectly illustrated the physics of a vibrating string. Students love their guitars!

Rare is the activity that can engage every single student in multiple classes. Making guitars was just challenging enough, and every guitar worked. Making a real instrument engaged the imagination and required concentration, as opposed to just plunking a rubber band from the FOSS kit. The Thingamajig builders were very organized, providing materials scaffolded for the lessons. They were punctual, clear, and reliable communicators in the preparation stages. They really conveyed their own fascination with sound creation and invention and physics to the rather awed students.

Stewart also brought in his own stringed inventions, including a very useful modular instrument that literally broke down into parts to show each aspect of how to control and create sound on a string. Stewart and Edward also conducted the students in informal compositions on their brand-new, 100% functional guitars.

Please contact me with any questions you have about our experience with the Thingamajigs program.

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